

NO ENGINES; FOUR BURN TO DEATH.

Young Mother Tries to Escape with Her Baby, but They Die Together in Flames.

OTHERS KILLED IN BEDS.

Boarders in Wild Panic Save Their Lives by Dashing Out Without Waiting to Put On Any Clothes.

(Special to The Evening World.)
OGDENSBURG, N. Y., Dec. 25.—In a fire in a boarding-house conducted by Julius King, about a mile from the village of Pierceland, near here, four persons were burned to death and a number seriously injured. There is no fire apparatus of any kind in the village and the house burned to the ground. The dead are: Mrs. M. J. Governor, Mr. King's elder daughter; her two little daughters and her sister, Ida Governor. King and his wife, who slept on the ground floor, escaped through a window, although badly injured. The rest of the family and boarders occupied the floor above. Mrs. Governor attempted to escape through a window with her youngest child, but was unsuccessful, and the charred bodies of the woman and her baby, clasped in her arms, were found in the debris directly under the window. The others were burned in their beds. The boarders, of whom there were four, escaped in their night clothes.

GAS BLOWS SIX MEN DOWNSTAIRS

They Were Fighting a Blaze Next Door to the Hotel St. Denis When the Explosion Occurred.

ESTS FLED INTO STORM.

A fire near the Hotel St. Denis, Eleventh street and Broadway, this morning caused an explosion of gas that blew six firemen down a flight of stairs. Policemen Dubois saw smoke coming from the top floor of the six-story building at No. 33 East Tenth street, occupied by various firms in the manufacture of women's garments. Acting Chief Purroy arrived soon after the first alarm, finding the tower a failure. Chief Purroy, finding the tower a failure, ordered Lieut. Walsh and five members of Engine Company No. 72 to take a hose to the top floor of the building. They dragged the hose, being followed by men of Companies Nos. 33 and 56. When they had reached the second floor there was a terrific explosion on the fifth floor, sending the windows into the street and shaking the structure. But their order to go to the top had not been countermanded, and the firemen dragged their hose on up through the floor where the first explosion had been, through flames and smoke which from the street seemed impenetrable, until they reached the sixth floor. Walsh had just ordered a man to run to the front window and signal the engines to turn on the water when there was an explosion in the rear of the top floor so powerful that it sent the six firemen head over heels to the floor below. Several of them were cut and bruised by the force and others dazed. Then Purroy countermanded the order and called the men down, though they were preparing to try again to reach the top floor. Manager Taylor and his son had appreciated the danger and had warned their patrons. Many became excited and went into the streets in their night clothes. But there was no panic and those more easily frightened were soon calmed, and they witnessed the subjection of the fire from the hotel windows. After the fire had been burning more than a half hour and after the explosion occurred Chief Purroy sent in a second alarm, and with the aid of the extra engines he got a stream through the water tower to the burning floors and the flames were quickly extinguished.

SALVATION ARMY OFFICERS GIVE AWAY 2,250 XMAS DINNERS, THEREBY MAKING GLAD THE HEARTS OF 12,500 POOR PEOPLE.



BETWEEN 'L' CAR AND PLATFORM.

A Man, Heavy with Christmas Cheer, Evicted from Ninth Ave. Train, Becomes Wedged and Has to Be Chopped Out.

PASSENGERS ARE INDIGNANT.

A trainload of Christmas passengers on the Ninth avenue "L" made such a demonstration to-day over an accident which befell one of their number, who had been ejected from the train that a squad of police from the Church street station had to be summoned. The ejected passenger was Richard A. Meredith, of No. 49 Watts street. The guard who put him off was Richard Schneider, of No. 41 West One Hundred and Forty-eighth street. Meredith, plentifully saturated with Christmas cheer, was riding downtown, and when the train reached the Cortlandt street station passengers saw Schneider push the intoxicated man out on the platform and into a bench. The guard then came back, rang the bell, closed the gates and the train started. Just then Meredith staggered up, seized the gate and asked to be taken along. In a trice the cars swept him down and he fell between the train and the platform, becoming wedged fast before the train could be stopped. Meredith was bleeding freely and appeared to be dead. A dozen persons shouted for police, others got axes to cut away the platform, and by the time an officer arrived Meredith had been chopped out. The doctor from Hudson Street Hospital said that there were no serious injuries, but that the man escaped by a miracle. Among those who gave their names as witnesses were W. W. Fairchild, a diamond merchant at No. 136 Broadway, and D. H. Root, of No. 309 West Broadway. "We were so indignant," said Mr. Fairchild, "that every one demanded Schneider's arrest, but the police took no action." Meredith was intoxicated, hardly knew where he was, in fact, but he was not acting offensive nor interfering with any one, but was standing quietly on the platform.

PRESIDENT TAKES A HORSEBACK RIDE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Snow, which began falling late last night, gave Washington a genuine Christmas appearance to-day. Public and private business was practically entirely suspended. Interest centered in the happenings at the White House. Early this morning the President and the members of his family repaired to the library, where presents were exchanged, and the many boxes and packages which had come from out of town opened. There were a large number of callers, and many gifts of the season were received. Soon after breakfast the President, Theodore, and Lieut. Ferguson, of the Rough Riders, who is a house guest, took a long horseback ride, returning in time to join the rest of the family luncheon with Commander and Mrs. Cowles.

12,000 MEN ARE ADVANCED.

Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Makes a Christmas Present.
PITTSBURGH, Pa., Dec. 25.—Employees of the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburgh Railroad have been granted a seven per cent. increase in wages, effective Dec. 1. Company employs about 12,000 men. The almost all of whom will benefit by the raise.
Daisy Carleton Acquitted.
BLOOMINGTON, Ill., Dec. 25.—The jury in the case of Daisy Carleton, charged with the murder of Mrs. Joseph Leslie, has rendered a verdict of not guilty. Mrs. Leslie, who was jealous of the latter, Miss Carleton shot her assailant when attacked.

VANDERBILT'S HEART IS WEAK.

Otherwise His Condition Is Satisfactory, but Physicians Dread Possible Complications from This Cause.

The Christmas present which Drs. Funt and Janeway gave to the family of Cornelius Vanderbilt to-day was this "L" car.

"Mr. Vanderbilt continues to improve slowly. His temperature remains stationary at a slightly lower level than yesterday afternoon." "The danger of complications has not passed," continued The Evening World's informant. "Mr. Vanderbilt's temperature has ranged about 102 1-2 for several days. In the evening, of course, it has been a little higher." "Mr. Vanderbilt's heart is also the cause of great anxiety. His action at times has been so weak as to necessitate the administration of digitalis in large quantities. All through his illness this has been the cause of great worry to his physicians, and even now it is considered the gravest danger he has to face." Dr. Flint left the Vanderbilt residence after a fifteen-minute call at 1:10 P. M. He found the patient sleeping and thought it best not to awaken him. He said Mr. Vanderbilt was doing well.

DEAD WITH STAB WOUND IN HEART

James Flynn's Body Picked Up in Yonkers Street and Carried Home While Wife Was Hunting for Him.

COMPANION UNDER ARREST.

(Special to The Evening World.)
YONKERS, N. Y., Dec. 25.—James Flynn was to-day found on the street murdered. Flynn left his home last evening in company with John McGerrel to do some Christmas shopping. He had not returned at midnight and his wife became worried and started out to look for him. During her absence her husband was brought home and left in their room. Meanwhile McGerrel had told Policeman Madden that a man had been killed in a saloon in Nepperham avenue. Madden went with him to the saloon. Every one in the place denied that any one had been killed there. They then went to Flynn's home, near by, and found his body there. Dr. Van Pelt was called, and he said the man had been dead some time. The officer then started to question McGerrel, but the man refused to answer. He tried to rush past the officer, but was arrested and locked up. Several frequenters of the saloon are being held pending an investigation. Flynn had two stab wounds—one in his breast and one in the heart. The police are absolutely in the dark as to who the murderer is. Assistant District-Attorney Weeks is at Police Headquarters assisting the police in clearing up the murder.

Stewart Gets Watch and Chain.
FOREZ M. Stewart, Superintendent of Buildings, was given a gold watch and chain by the employees in his department. John O'Connor, Chief Construction Inspector, made the presentation speech. Mr. Stewart replied briefly. William H. Walker, Superintendent of Public Buildings, was presented with a gold pen by the employees in his office.

HIS BLOW FATAL TO HIMSELF.

Anderson Hit a Stranger in the Mouth, Cutting His Knuckles, and Now He's Dead from Blood Poisoning.

HAND AND ARM SWELLED.

Anton Anderson, of No. 18 Reector street, hit a man in the mouth in a fight a week ago and died to-day as a result of the blow. How the man who was hit fared is not known. In striking his antagonist Anderson cut his hand on the teeth his knuckles encountered. The man struck was white, and the blue gum theory cannot apply, but nevertheless Anderson's hand began to swell almost immediately. He went to Hudson Street Hospital for treatment. The doctors said he was suffering from blood poisoning and that it would be necessary to amputate the hand. Anderson refused to part with his hand until the swelling had spread to his arm. Then the surgeons cut the arm off, but it was too late. Anderson was fifty-two years old.

TILFORD NEWSBOYS SNOWBALL POLICE.

Some of His Little Guests Returned as New Lads for Second and Third "Feeds."

Frank Tilford gave a dinner to 700 newsboys at Lyric Hall this afternoon. The bill of fare consisted of everything from turkey to pie. The newsboys were intent upon having a merry Christmas, and for an hour before dinner they amused themselves by snowballing the passers-by. One complained and a squad of police was sent to keep order. The newsboys, however, were not at all startled when the police came around the corner, but snowballed them as merrily as they had everybody else. A few scraps of a silly song routed the newsboys and they fled upstairs where the dinner awaited them. While the meal was being partaken of a band played popular airs at one end of the hall and a Punch and Judy show amused those at the other end. It was not until the dinner had been going on for some time that it was discovered that some of the boys had been "doubling" or, in other words, assisting the street had returned for a second dinner and sometimes a third.

MRS. M'KINLEY DINES WITH HER SISTER.

CANTON, O., Dec. 25.—Mrs. McKinley will for the first time to-day since her husband's death take a holiday dinner away from her own home. She dines to-day with her sister, Mrs. Barber, who lives in the old Saxton mansion. For weeks Mrs. McKinley has been making slips for friends in the East. This morning Mrs. McKinley will make her daily visit to the tomb of her husband and from there she will drive to the Barber home.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Forecast for the thirty-six hours ending at 8 P. M. Friday for New York City and vicinity: Partly cloudy and colder to-night; Friday fair and colder; winds becoming fresh from the west to-night, increasing Friday morning to brisk.

SALVATION ARMY FED 12,500 TO-DAY.

Those Who Had No Christmas Feasts of Their Own Crowd the Grand Central Palace, and 2,250 of Them Took Away Family Dinners in Baskets.

The distribution of food sufficient for 12,500 hearty meals was begun by the Salvation Army at 10 o'clock this morning in the Grand Central Palace. It will continue until 2:30 baskets, each designed to hold enough food for the Christmas dinner of the average poor family, have been given away. Commander Booth-Tucker, whose wife is to-day conducting a similar charity in San Francisco, had charge of the arrangements. Brigadier Scott called for order at 10 o'clock and started singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow," which all those in the building joined in.

There Was No Speechmaking. When the doxology was finished Commander Booth-Tucker arose and said: "We want no speechmaking. That is not why we are here. We wish you all a happy Christmas and a blessed New Year."

Then the members of the Salvation Army commenced giving out the baskets. In the lines came the poor, the lame, the halt and the blind. None that none but those holding tickets previously distributed by the Salvation Army should receive baskets, but the response of the charitable had been so generous that it was expected there would be enough for all applicants.

Was the Feast of the Year. In every place in the building baskets were piled. They stood in great pyramids everywhere. Most of them contained a chicken. If a fine roast of beef was preferred, there were many of that assortment. In every basket the wholesome—even fancy. The Salvation Army had prepared for the one feast in the year for the poor.

"This year breaks all records," said Commander Booth-Tucker. "The people have responded to our appeals in a most astonishing way. We never before received so much money in donations. Many wealthy men gave large sums and the contributions to the kettles and boxes on the streets were enormous. Among the pennies we found were running from \$1 to \$100, and many of them. It seemed that each had given according to his means. The basket dinners are for the poor who have a place in which to prepare them for families and those who have stoves. But to-night the great army of the homeless—those who would starve to death with one of the basket dinners because they have no roof, no stove, nothing but the blue sky for a home—will be fed at a really sumptuous dinner in the Grand Central Palace.

RAVING LUNATIC BREAKS OUT IN WALDORF-ASTORIA PARLOR.

Late this afternoon a raving lunatic broke into a tirade against corporate wealth in the ladies' parlor of the Waldorf-Astoria.

He danced about on the costly furniture and tore his hair. He looked like a Frenchman—tall, well-built, swarthy and smooth-shaven. He was about thirty years of age. He was fashionably attired in a dark blue Raglan overcoat, over a black suit, and wore a derby hat.

He was immediately seized by the house detective and seven stalwart porters and with difficulty gagged and bound. He was removed to Bellevue Hospital in an ambulance, restrained in a strait-jacket. He was put in a padded cell. His identity is a mystery. He was not a guest.

LATE RESULTS AT NEW ORLEANS.

Fourth Rue—McChesney 1. Old Hutch 2, Federal 3.

SUBWAY TO BE PROTECTION OF NEXT CHRISTMAS

With Snow Covering Tracks and Demoralizing Traffic on Surface and "L" Lines Comes the Cheering Announcement that the Rapid Transit Tunnel Will Be Finished in a Year.

Unprotected Third Rail Once More Proves an Annoying Feature in Local Traffic, but the General Public Is Not Travelling—Woodbury Starts In to Clear Away the Snow.

This is the last Christmas that New Yorkers will have to depend on the elevated road to get to Harlem. A year from to-day snowstorms and sleetstorms may be laughed at instead of wept at, because then the subway will be running and one may get to Harlem in fifteen minutes.

William Barclay Parsons, Chief Engineer of the Rapid Transit Commission, makes this announcement to the public through The Evening World to-day. It is the brightest spot in the otherwise gloomy problem of transportation which confronts New York.

That the city is in a really hapless fix on account of the general failure of the transportation companies to handle the traffic was emphasized especially to-day in the case of the Manhattan through its third failure to make its much-vaunted third rail work in the snow storm which came down on the city last night.

Had there been any doubt that the electric system was a failure from the experience of the two former paralytic strokes suffered by the various lines, that doubt was completely dispelled this morning before a half-inch of snow had fallen. With a calm, little Christmas snow storm at which the ordinary surface car leaps in delight, the elevated found more than it could do and proved itself an elaborate failure, a "gold brick" Christmas present for Mr. August Belmont, who has leased the system for 999 years, and caused a few hundred thousand disappointed patrons to mutter as they were turned away from the stations:

SNOW CLOGGED THE THIRD RAIL.

"Peace on earth; good will to all men except the management of the Manhattan Elevated."

The snow started about 2 o'clock this morning and by 3 o'clock the electric elevated trains were having trouble. The thin layer of snow on the third rail prevented the current from being picked up by the sliding shoes of the cars and the trains stood still most of the time.

Until 5 o'clock the "owl" trains tried to run. That was the best they could do—just try to run. After 5 o'clock most of the lines gave it up. A train left the Ninety-third street station on the Columbus avenue line at 5 o'clock and after a half hour of the most gorgeous pyrotechnics on the part of the sliding shoe and the third rail and the most eloquent cussing on the part of the motorman it reached the station at Fifty-third street and Eighth avenue. There the motorman, who had exhausted his profane vocabulary, said:

"This thing moves like a century plant grows. I'll eat my Christmas dinner here."

At 7 o'clock the ticket choppers were placed at the stairways to all stations on the Second and Third avenue lines and turned away all who would ride on the elevated. Occasionally the Sixth avenue line would be enlivened by the spurt of a train out of some station, but it generally stopped before it got to the next station.

SURFACE CARS REAPED HARVEST.

The surface cars brought most of the people downtown and took the others uptown. The Metropolitan had their great snow-ploughs out early and there was no appreciable delay in the service.

By daylight the snow counted fully an inch fall and it was confidently said that Santa Claus was able to use his sleigh and reindeers. Last night it was feared that old Santa would have to use the elevated, but the anxiety of the children was relieved when they saw that he had escaped that great inconvenience.

Major Woodbury, Commissioner of Street Cleaning, and his assistants were rejoicing that the snow waited until to-day instead of coming yesterday. With traffic as light as on Sunday the department will have a free hand at the streets, and it was said at Major Woodbury's bureau that all of the business streets would be cleared by to-morrow morning.

Concerning the tie-up of the elevated system the management, refusing to be interviewed, said after the first paralysis of the system three weeks ago that through the failure of a contractor the cars had not been provided with an arrangement which would sweep the snow, sleet or other insulation from the third rail. The people suffered the inconvenience, accepted the explanation and waited.

Later a very ordinary storm again tied up the whole system. By that time many of the cars had been equipped with the rail-cleaning attachment, and they were as useless as the cars without them. Newspapers, representing the people who support the road, sent reporters to Manager Skitt's office, to the offices of various other officials, and at each place an explanation was refused. The officers of the company would offer no excuse and make no promise, except the general one that "the roads are all running as usual," which was said when the whole system was at a standstill. All this in the spirit of the words of the management's illustrious model: "The public be damned."

If the company has made any effort to provide against a repetition of